

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3624

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASEZ MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1181

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TMCRFK PFOR, PINT, EG, US, LY, UR

SUBJ: QADHAFI'S CONCERN RE EGYPT, USSR AND U.S.

REF: TRIPOLI 1180

1. QADHAFI CALLED NEWSWEEK'S ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE BACK FOR SECOND MEETING ON SEPT. 6. THIS TIME MEETING WAS OFF THE RECORD AND ROLES WERE REVERSED. QADHAFI SOUGHT BORCHGRAVE'S VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OF CURRENT CONCERN. AS IN SEPT. 4 MEETING MINISTER OF STATE FOR R.C.C. AFFAIRS TAHA SHARIF BEN AMER ACTED AS PARTIAL INTERPRETER.

2. INITIALLY QADHAFI PRESSED BORCHGRAVE HARD FOR SOURCE OF ASSERTION IN AUG NEWSWEEK ARTICLE THAT CONFEDERATION OF ARAB STATES (SYRIA, EGYPT, LIBYA) WAS DEAD LETTER -- BORCHGRAVE RESISTED SUCCESSFULLY.

3. QADHAFI THEN ASKED WHETHER EGYPT WAS GOING TO INVADE LIBYA. BORCHGRAVE DOUBTED IT BUT OPINED

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THAT SOME TYPE OF COMMANDO OPERATION IN CYRENAICA

COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. QADHAFI OBSERVED THAT SOME DISSIDENCE CAUSED BY "MARXISTS" OCCASIONALLY OCCURRED IN CYRENAICA.

4. QADHAFI THEN WANTED TO KNOW IF THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LIBYA. BORCHGRAVE SAID HE HOPED NOT BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS U.S. HAD BETTER RELATIONS WITH EGYPT THAN LIBYA. QADHAFI NEXT ASKED WHAT USSR WOULD DO IF EGYPT INVADED LIBYA. BORCHGRAVE OBSERVED THAT USSR APPEARED TO HAVE GREATER STRATEGIC INTEREST IN SYRIA THAN LIBYA THUS ITS SUPPORT FOR LIBYA MIGHT BE LIMITED TO WORDS.

5. TURNING TO U. S. QADHAFI WANTED TO KNOW IF THE U.S. REALLY WANTED A DIALOG WITH LIBYA LEADING TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. BORCHGRAVE NOTED HE COULDNT SPEAK FOR U.S. GOVT. BUT ASSUMED IT WAS OPEN MINDED AND NO DOUBT READY AND WILLING TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS. QADHAFI THEN URGED BORCHGRAVE TO TELL FRIENDS IN U.S. THAT RAPPROCHMENT WITH LIBYA WAS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH-- WHEN BORCHGRAVE ASKED ON WHAT BASIS, QADHAFI SAID BASIS COULD BE DEVELOPED IN COURSE OF TALKS.

6. MEETINGS ENDED WITH BORCHGRAVE AGREEING TO QADHAFI'S PLEA THAT HE RETURN TO TRIPOLI IF NEEDED TO SERVE AS MEDIATOR/MEANS COMMUNICATION.

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